Cynric ap Osborn (c. 1270–c. 1343)

Origin and Family

Born c. 1270. Died before 1343.

Father: Osborn Wyddel (c. 1230–c. 1293)
Mother: Ward of Llewelyn – Cors y Gedol Estate
Spouse: Nest ferch Cynwrig ap Madog ap Cadifor ap Cynillin ap Gwaithfoed of Merioneth.[6]
Children:[1]

1. Llewelyn ap Cynric (c. 1300–c. 1343)

The name Cynric is pronounced Kenrick and means royal. Osborn may have named his son Cynric to honor his friend and sponsor, Gruffydd ap Ednyfed Fychan ap Cynwrig.

From Rodney Horace Yale[1]: “On the division of his father’s lands, he, according to the custom of gavelkind, then prevalent in Wales, inherited Cors-y-Gedol as a portion of his share.”

In 1875, the historian W.W.E. Wynne published an article in Archeologia Cambrensis based on an earlier manuscript written by Miss Angharad Lloyd in 1770[2]:

> “[Osborn] had two sons, Einion and Cynric. Einion had four sons, Grono Llwyd, Heilin, Cynric, and Llewelyn Goch. Grono Llwyd had lands given him that bear his name to this day (“Cae Grono Llwyd”), which lands were escheated to the crown; Heilin had other lands given him which are now, and were called “Cors Heilin”; both which lands at this time belong to, and are part of, the demesne of Cors y Gedol. The prosperity of these four brothers are in our day scarcely known, the custom of gavelkind having, in the process of time, sunk them into oblivion.
>
> To Cynric, his second son, Osbwrn gave the possession of Cors-y-Gedol, whose descendants in the direct line male enjoy it to this day, 1770. Besides Cors-y-Gedol, Cynric ap Osbwrn had likewise his part of his father’s inheritance. It was the custom in those days for the father to leave to or settle upon his youngest son of the family the principal seat of the family, where he always resided. The elder sons were generally employed in the service of the prince abroad, or in attending his person at home. The intention of this custom was to preserve and keep up the family in case any accident should befall the elder sons. I cannot find whom Cynric married, or what number of children he had, but his successor, Llewelyn, enjoyed all of his father’s inheritance.”[2]

Two sources show that Cynric married Nest ferch Cynwrig ap Madog ap Cadifor ap Cynillin ap Gwaithfoed of Meirionnydd.[5,6]

Occupation and Property

Cynric (Cynwrig, Kenrick, or Kenuric) inherited the estate sometime after 1293. His father Osborn Wyddel was heavily taxed as the landholder of Cors-y-Gedol according to the *Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll of 1292-3*, whereas Cynric is not listed at all.[3]

Cors-y-Gedol was a large estate in the parish of Llanaber, a coastal settlement near the Barmouth River. The Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll tax levels indicate that Llanaber was relatively

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well off.[3] With 101 households paying taxes, it was one of the larger settlements for its time. A payment of 6 shillings or more was considered a threshold for wealth and prosperity. Many parishes had no households taxed at that level. In Llanaber, about 15% of the families paid 6 shillings or more, and Osborn Wyddel paid almost three times that amount, making him among the most wealthy people in Merioneth.[3]

According to *The Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll*[3] , the Cors-y-Gedol estate is listed among Nannau, Peniarth, and Rhiwlas as one of the larger estates owned by the elite in those times. The estate would have had tenant farmers who paid their lord for the right to raise crops and animals on the estate. A tenant farmer might have 5 cows or oxen, and 1 or 2 horses. Sheep were less common. The main crop was oats. To a lesser extent, crops of wheat and barley were also grown.

Mawddach estuary at Barmouth

The term “Cors” means marsh, so it is likely that the property was mainly used for pasture.[3]

Cors-y-Gedol is located about 3 miles north of Barmouth, on the west coast of North Wales.

The remains of a cairn on Cors Y Gedol

There are some megalithic burial chambers known as Dolmens or Cairns on the estate. “The remains of the 84ft cairn of Cors y Gedol lie on the slopes of Moelfre. Little remains of the burial chamber itself apart from the capstone leaning against the cairn and a single standing stone to the east.”[4] These ancient structures were built between 4000 BC and 3000 BC, and are found in Wales, Ireland, and throughout Europe. In the thirteenth century, it was commonly believed that these structures were built by giants.[4]

End of Life

Cynric’s son Llewelyn inherited Cors-y-Gedol around 1343, so we can assume Cynric died before this year.

Research Notes

Online Genealogy References:
WikiTree ID: Ab_Osbern-1
FamilySearch ID: LCZM-J14

Further Reading:

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- Yale, Max Brian. *Yale Family Coat of Arms* - Origin and History. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*, 2025

References

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2. Archaeologia Cambrensis Journal. London, England. Vol VI, 1875 Pp.1

3. Williams-Jones, Keith. “The Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll 1292-3”, Cardiff, Wales: University of Wales Press, 1976

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5. Stirnet Genealogy Online Web Site

6. Wolcott, Darrel. "Osbwrn Wyddel of Cors Gedol," Ancient Wales Studies. Osbwrn Wyddel of Cors Gedol (Archive.Org Wayback Reference)

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